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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over "The Answer Machine," The Magazine for Database Professionals, Vol. 8, No. 1, January 2000, Page 58 (hereinafter Feldman) in view "Mine over Matter," Journal of Business Strategy, Vol. 19, No. 9, July/August 1998, Pages 22-26 (hereinafter Baker).

Claim 1 includes a limitation of removing superfluous data elements including navigational and advertising elements. Neither Feldman nor Baker teach such a limitation, and as a result claim 1 is patentable over Feldman and Baker.

Specifically, Feldman teaches Machine Aided or automatic Indexing (MAI) (Paragraphs 50-56). MAI finds major concepts in a document, and automatically applies indexing terms to the document. As such, MAI is a type of automated summarization and is used to generally determine the overall content of a document. Claim 1 teaches removing superfluous elements including navigational and advertising elements. MAI, on the other hand, either only extracts important terms or attempts to summarize a document. Neither process removes content from the documents. Rather, the documents remain intact, and the MAI generates indices to aid in navigation. The indices are substantially different from the original document. Further, Feldman does not mention removing data including navigational and advertising elements.

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Baker teaches only that data is "cleansed" (Paragraph 11). Baker does not describe cleansing. Data cleansing, or scrubbing, as known in the art, is the process of amending or removing data in a database that is incorrect, incomplete, improperly formatted, or duplicated. Data cleansing typically involves preparing data for using a database by, for example, determining whether data, such as address data, is correct, and reconciling errors in the database. Data cleansing is not known to include the process of removing navigational or advertising elements, as in claim 1. As a result, claim 1, as amended, is not pantentable over Feldman and Baker.

Claim 1 further includes a limitation of transparently modifying the search criterion if a historical analysis of previous sets of search criterion provided *and modified by the user* indicates a refined version of the search criterion. Neither Feldman nor Baker teach such a limitation, and as a result, claim 1 is patentable over Feldman and Baker. Feldman teaches using intelligent agents to improve database searches. The agents learn what a "good match" is during a training period by receiving corrections from human input (Paragraph 39). Once the training period is complete, the agents no longer base their decisions on human input. Instead, the agents process documents based only on human input to the agents that occurs *during* the training period. Further, the human input does not come from an ultimate user of the agent, but rather one who is training the agent. Therefore, it cannot be said that search criteria is being modified based on a historical analysis of search criterion modified by the user, as in claim 1.

As taught by Feldman, the intelligent agent can automatically include new terms in a search ordered by a user (Paragraph 38). These new terms are detected by the agent based on changes in terms in the art, and *not* based on

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search criterion modified by the user, as in claim 1 (Paragraph 37). For example, the intelligent agent could add a new, related term to a search established by the user. The related term is found by monitoring the use of terms by those other than the user. Presumably, the user does not know of the new term. As a result, the terms are added *regardless* of what the user does or has done, and solely based on the "rise of these new terms" (Paragraph 38) as they relate to the original search query. Therefore, Feldman does not teach modifying the search criterion if a historical analysis of previous sets of search criterion provided and modified by the user, as in claim 1. Further, Baker does not teach modifying search terms. As a result, claim 1 is patentable over Feldman and Baker.

The above arguments regarding claim 1 also apply to the independent claims 8 and 15. Further, the dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-21 depend from the independent claims. As a result, the dependent claims include all the limitations of the independent claims. Since the independent claims are patentable over Feldman and Baker, the dependent claims are also patentable over Feldman and Baker.
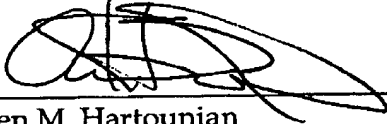
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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Arlen M. Hartounian at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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